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NSC BRIEFING

10 June 1954

INDOCHINA

- I. Army attaché Saigon reiterates expectation heavy Viet Minh delta campaign, with enemy readiness date [] June.

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- II. Prior to all-out enemy delta effort, most military observers expect continued attacks on Hanoi-Haiphong routes and in Phu Ly and Hung Yen sectors in southern delta.

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B. [] past week's information gives over-all impression that enemy trying prevent effective French build-up of defensive system while rapidly redeploying its own forces around delta for large-scale operations.

DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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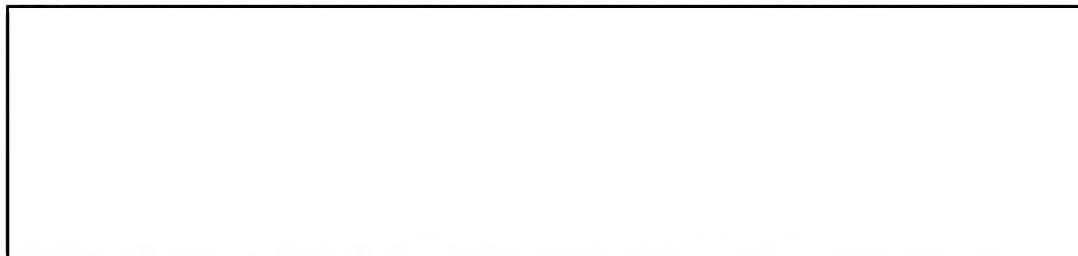
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III. In northern Laos, further enemy action indicated.

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IV. Appointment of the Ely-Salan team may be indicative of French intention achieving an early settlement.

- A. Ely essentially a staff officer, not a combat commander.
- B. Salan's defensive-mindedness, Maginot mentality were only too apparent when he followed De Lattre as commander in chief.
- C. American chargé in Saigon conjectures Salan, to be ground forces commander, was assigned not to conduct offensive campaign but to use his knowledge of Indochina in administration of armistice.

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